

Remarks


Claim 48 has been revised to correct typographical errors. The proper lettering of the method steps from a-f has been appropriately corrected. Consideration and entry of the revisions to claim 48 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked Up Copy of Claims for Application Serial No. 08/403,844.

48. (Amended) A method for detecting a specific target cell in a cell suspension of a mixed cell population, in a fluid system containing a mixed cell population, or in a cell suspension prepared from a solid tissue, with the exception of normal and malignant hematopoietic cells in blood and bone marrow, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. coating paramagnetic particles or beads with a first antibody directed against a second antibody or antibody fragment;
- b. incubating the second antibody or antibody fragment with the cell mixture to bind the antibody or antibody fragment with the target cell, wherein the second antibody or antibody fragment is directed against a membrane structure specifically expressed on the target cell and not on a non-target cell in the cell mixture;
- c. washing the cell mixture to remove unbound second antibody or antibody fragment;
- [b]d. mixing the coated paramagnetic particles with the washed cell mixture
- [c]e. incubating the mixture under gentle rotation at about 4°C until target cell-bead rosettes are formed; and
- [e]f. visually detecting the target cell-bead rosettes.